

# FENCES AND RETAINING WALLS

***I want to:*** Install a fence or retaining wall in public space next to my property.

***Do I need a permit?*** Yes, any use of the public right-of-way, which is defined as the space outside the private property line, requires permission from the District Department of Transportation.

***Where do I go to get this permit?*** 941 North Capitol Street, Suite 2300.

***What do I need to bring with me when I apply for this permit?***

***Checklist***

1. A completed Public Space Application
2. For a retaining wall:
  - a. Four (4) copies of the site plan, drawn to scale, showing:
    1. Dimension from curb to retaining wall and to the property line \_\_\_\_\_
    2. All dimensions of the wall (length, height, thickness) \_\_\_\_\_
    3. Footing and elevation details \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If the wall is near a sidewalk, a damage deposit will be required \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Maximum height of the wall is 42 inches tall (if taller, see below) \_\_\_\_\_
3. For a fence:
  - a. Two (2) copies of the site plan, drawn to scale, showing same dimensions as for retaining walls \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Must be at least 50% open and no more than 42 inches tall (if taller, see below) \_\_\_\_\_
4. If a retaining wall or fence is greater than 42 inches, it requires Public Space Committee approval. Fences may be placed on retaining walls, but the total height may not exceed the maximum of ten (10) feet. Applications requiring Committee attention must provide:
  - a. Fifteen (15) copies of the site plan drawing, to scale \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Same dimension requirements as above \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Distance between elements (if more than one). \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Elevation views of the proposed location of the fence/wall \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Three (3) 8 x 10 photographs showing front view and views from the right and left of the space proposed for the structure. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Please bring one (1) copy of the site plan and completed application to a Public Space Technician in Suite 2300 for review before submitting the full package of fifteen (15) site plans. \_\_\_\_\_

***How much will the permit cost?*** The cost of the permit varies by structure but generally cost \$19. Checks or money orders should be made payable to “DC Treasurer.” Discover, MasterCard and Visa accepted. Public Space Committee approved structures are issued for the duration (life) of the structure. If less than 42 inches tall, the permit will be issued for 90 days. If more time is required to do the work, the permit may be renewed.

***How long will the permit application process take?*** Permits to replace an existing fence or retaining wall no taller than 42 inches can be approved the same day. Permits for new fences or walls no taller than 42 inches take approximately 3 weeks. For applications requiring Public Space Committee attention the average timeframe is 45 to 90 days.

***What if I need more information?*** Call the Public Space Permit office, 202-442-4670, for more information.